



# Improving the Resiliency and Sustainability of Farmers' Livelihoods with Cacao

## Why Cacao?

- The **price of cacao is higher** than other traditionally grown crops, like coconut and banana, and the **market is less saturated**.
- Cacao can be **harvested year-round**, with two peak harvest periods per year.
- Cacao can be **grown under mature coconut and fruit trees**, and the extra care it needs, including regular fertilization and pruning, benefits the trees around it, increasing the quality and quantity of their yields.
- Cacao trees are **less vulnerable than coconut trees** to typhoons and other severe weather conditions as they are closer to the ground and can be better protected from wind and rain.
- To help fill the world's supply gap in cocoa, the Government of the Philippines has launched the **Cacao 2020 Challenge** with a goal of producing 100,000 metric tons of quality cacao beans by 2020. Government policies and programs are being implemented in Mindanao that will **assist farmers in increasing their cacao production**.

## Results

- 2,194 farmers so far have been trained in **cacao-based diversified farming practices, management and post-harvest techniques**. Many of these farmers are being supported in forming and overseeing new **cacao farmers' collectives**.
- 1,016 farmers have been taught how to **properly graft cacao seedlings** for healthier propagation in nurseries.
- **6 post-harvest facilities for fermenting and drying** have been constructed for shared use by the farmers.
- **8 cacao-based diversified demonstration farms** and **2 cacao rehabilitation demonstration farms** have been created for inspiring cacao farmers to visit and replicate.
- An **automated SMS system, Kakao Konek**, has been developed to provide farmers with technical answers to their **texted cacao farming inquires**.
- Cacao-farming households are being encouraged to **incorporate the entire family** in their business activities. They have also been trained on **household income management and record keeping**.



### QUICK FACTS

Lutheran World Relief (LWR) is partnering with CIDAMi to improve the livelihoods of small-holder farmers in Mindanao through cacao-based farm diversification and household financial management.

This is an on-going project, and increases in productivity and income will be reported at the end of the project.

**Kakao Konek**, an SMS system for cacao farmers, is an **Information and Communication Technology for Development (ICT4D)** tool. Cell phones, which can be found in even the remotest parts of the Philippines, are an **accessible tool for farmers that significantly expand the reach of LWR's technical support**.

*LWR has been working in the Philippines since the 1960s, strengthening the resiliency of communities against natural disasters and assisting with livelihood adaptations to climate change.*

**PARTNERS:** Cacao Industry Development Association of Mindanao Inc. (CIDAMi)

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